IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as shown below. The claims, as pending in the subject application read as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of allocating at least one service by a first peer to a second peer, the first and second peers being linked by means of a computer communication network, said first and second peers belonging respectively to a first and second group of peers adapted to share data, comprising the steps of:

initializing preferences of said first peer, wherein said preferences comprise a set of associations ~~consisting of~~ which define associations between a service and a distance in a connection graphic of peers;

evaluating a distance between said first and second peers, wherein said distance between said first and second peers is a distance separating nodes in the connection graphic of peers;

selecting, by said first peer, a service supplied by said first peer, said service being selected according to the evaluated distance from among said set of associations consisting of the service and the distance; and

allocating said selected service to said second peer.

2. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the evaluation step comprises a step of receiving a notification sent by a central server in said computer communication network, said notification comprising a value of said distance and an identifier of said second peer on the computer communication network.

3. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the evaluation step comprises a step of reading a value of said distance associated with said second peer among a list of associations of peers and distances.

4. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the evaluation step comprises a step of receiving an electronic ticket sent by said second peer, comprising an identifier of said second peer and the distance between the first and second peer.

5. (Canceled)

6. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein said set of associations is bounded by a threshold value.

7. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the shared data is represented at multiple resolution levels, and said services to be allocated correspond to various resolution levels of the data to be shared between the first group and the second group of peers.

8. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 7, wherein the shared data are digital images.

9. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the shared data are compressed digital images to the JPEG 2000 format, and said services to be allocated correspond to various levels of visual quality of the data to be shared between the first and second group of peers.

10. (Currently Amended) A device for allocating at least one service by a first peer to a second peer, the first and second peers being connected by means of a computer communication network, said first and second peers belonging respectively to a first and second group of peers adapted to share data, the device comprising:

initialization means for initializing preferences of said first peer, wherein said preferences comprise a set of associations ~~consisting of~~ which define associations between a service and a distance in a connection graphic of peers;

evaluation means for evaluating a distance between said first and second peers, wherein the distance between the first and second peers is a distance separating nodes in the connection graphic of peers;

selecting means for selecting, by said first, peer a service supplied by said first peer, said service being selected according to the evaluated distance from among said set of associations consisting of the service and the distance; and

allocating means for allocating said selected service to said second peer.

11. (Previously Presented) The device according to claim 10, wherein the evaluation means comprises means for receiving a notification sent by a central server in

said computer communication network, said notification comprising a value of said distance and an identifier of said second peer on the computer communication network.

12. (Previously Presented) The device according to claim 10, wherein the evaluation means comprise means for reading a value of said distance associated with said second peer among a list of associations of peers and distances.

13. (Previously Presented) The device according to claim 10, wherein the evaluation means comprise means for receiving an electronic ticket sent by said second peer, comprising an identifier of the second peer and the distance between the first and second peers.

14. (Canceled)

15. (Previously Presented) The device according to claim 10, further comprising:

a microprocessor;

a read only memory adapted to store a service allocation program; and

a random access memory comprising registers adapted to store variables during the execution of said program.

16. (Previously Presented) The device according to claim 10, wherein the device is incorporated in a terminal in a computer communication network.

17. (Previously Presented) A computer comprising the device according to claim 10.

18. (Previously Presented) A communication network comprising the device according to claim 10.

19. (Canceled)

20. (Previously Presented) A computer-readable storage medium on which is stored a computer-executable program that, when executed by a computer, performs a method of allocating at least one service by a first peer to a second peer, the first and second peers being linked by means of a computer communication network, said first and second peers belonging respectively to a first and second group of peers adapted to share data, the program comprising the steps of:

initializing preferences of said first peer, wherein said preferences comprise a set of associations ~~consisting of~~ which define associations between a service and a distance in a connection graphic of peers;

evaluating a distance between said first and second peers, wherein said distance between said first and second peers is a distance separating nodes in the connection graphic of peers;

selecting by said first peer a service supplied by said first peer, said service being selected according to the evaluated distance from among said set of associations consisting of the service and the distance; and

allocating said selected service to said second peer.

21. (Canceled)

22. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein said set of associations consisting of the service and the distance is stored in a table on said first peer.

23. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein said preferences also comprise a set of associations ~~consisting of~~ which define associations between a degressive service and a distance in the connection graphic of peers.

24. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein the distance in said graphic of peers corresponds to a minimum number of arcs which connect two nodes in ~~said~~ the connection graphic of peers, said two nodes representing respectively two peers in the communication network.

25. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, further comprising a peer initialization step to establish a list of peers forming a group of peers adapted to share data.

26. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, further comprising a peer initialization step for said first peer and said second peer to establish,

respectively, said first group of peers and said second group of peers adapted to share data without service restriction.

27. (New) A method of allocating at least one service by a first peer to a second peer, the first and second peers being linked by means of a computer communication network, said first and second peers belonging respectively to a first and second group of peers adapted to share data, comprising the steps of:

initializing preferences of said first peer, wherein said preferences comprise a set of associations which define associations between a service and a distance in a connection graphic of peers;

evaluating a distance between said first and second peers, wherein said distance between said first and second peers is a distance separating nodes in the connection graphic of peers;

selecting, by said first peer, a service supplied by said first peer, said service being selected according to the evaluated distance from amongst said set of associations consisting of the service and the distance; and

allocating said selected service to said second peer;

wherein said set of associations is bounded by a threshold value which is set as a peer preference in the initializing step and corresponds to a maximum distance beyond which the peer does not allocate any service to another peer.